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NEW MILLS URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925.



NEW MILLS :
G. H. BAILEY, PRINTER

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ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

— For the Year 1925. —

NEW MILLS,

April 7th, 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the
New Mills Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1925.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health this is a Survey Report and deals with the health of the District during the past five years.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 5,200.

Population—Census 1921, 8,490. Estimated 1925, 8,764

The District is hilly, varying from 300 ft. to 900 ft. O.D.

The geological formation is chiefly gritstone.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 2,059.

The number of families or separate occupiers in 1921 was 2082.

The rateable value in 1925 was £38,172.

The gross sum represented by a penny rate was £159.

According to the Census Report the chief occupations of the inhabitants in 1921 were textile and metal workers.

The amount of Poor Law Relief in 1925 was £1510 17s. 2d.

Vital Statistics.

The total number of Deaths in 1925 was 123. This gives a Death rate of 14.03.

The total number of Births in 1925 was 140. This gives a Birth rate of 15.97.

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives an Infantile Mortality figure of 71.42.

The Phthisis Death rate was .57.

The above rates for the years 1921 to 1925 inclusive are set out below.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Death rate	12.94	12.77	11.3	10.4	14.03
Birth rate	22.13	16.6	16.9	13.1	15.97
Infantile Mortality	72.77	68.49	73.82	51.27	71.42
Phthisis Death rate	1.17	.34	.34	.44	.57

During the quinquennia under review Scarlet Fever has been prevalent and much more so than in the two previous quinquenniae.

Encephalitis Lethargica, the first cases of which were notified in 1920, has reappeared in 1924, 1925.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

- (1) For Tuberculosis there is a Pavilion at Penmore and a Sanatorium at Walton.
- (2) For Fever cases, including Small-pox, there is an Isolation Hospital at Chinley.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) For infectious cases—Isolation Hospital Ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases—Red Cross Ambulance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

There is an Infant Welfare Centre at New Mills, and a Tuberculosis Dispensary and School Clinic at Chinley, all provided by the County Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Public Health Officers are all part time, and are as follows:—

G. B. Pemberton, D.P.H. Vict., Medical Officer of Health.

W. C. Sheard, A.M.I.C.E., Sanitary Inspector.

C. E. Hall, M.R.C.V.S. Ed., Meat Inspector.

Contribution to the salaries of the two former is made by Exchequer grants, to the latter under the Public Health Acts.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

(a) General:—This is provided by the New Mills District Nursing Association, affiliated with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

(b) Infections Diseases:—None provided.

Midwives:—

A Midwife was subsidized by the Local Authority, but is not now practising in the District.

This appointment was not sanctioned by the Ministry of Health, as the County Council is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act. The County Council consider that it is not necessary to subsidize a midwife for New Mills.

With this I disagree. The shortage still exists.

The number of registered midwives residing and practising in the area is 3.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water:—

There is sufficiency of supply below 650 ft. O.D. At higher levels there is temporary insufficiency at times of heaviest consumption by reason of the low altitude of the reservoirs. The supply, which is constant, is derived from moorland, from springs and from a disused mine.

The number of dwelling-houses supplied directly or by means of standpipes is 1,821.

The proportion of the population supplied is 82%.

The moorland water is liable to contamination.

There is no plumbo-solvent action.

During the year an exhaustive analysis was made of all water supplies and it was found that the supply from the Ollerset Reservoir was contaminated and could not be rendered fit for consumption. This supply has been discontinued by order of the Council.

The 'grips,' down which moorland water flows, are cleared out periodically to keep the water free from contamination.

All waters are filtered through pressure sand filters.

Rivers and Streams.

The Goyt is to some extent polluted by sewage effluent.

Drainage and Sewerage.

This is satisfactory, with the exception of the sewage effluent. Application has been made to the Ministry of Health for power to re-organize the sewage disposal.

Closet Accommodation.

Conversion to the water carriage system is proceeding very satisfactorily, those privies which are especially insanitary and difficult of access first being dealt with. There have been 152 conversions to the water carriage system in the 5 years.

On the 31st December, 1925, the figures were as follows:—
Privies, 360; Privy Middens, 153; Dry Ashpits, 220; Pail Closets, 28; Water Closets, 670; Waste Water Closets, 555.

Scavenging

By removal to 'tips' by the Council's motor.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspectors' Report is appended.

During the past five years the chief sanitary improvements have been the sewerage of Hague Bar and a speeding up of conversions to the water carriage system throughout the District and improvement of the water supply

Schools.

The sanitary condition of these is in the main satisfactory. Hague Bar School is, however, not yet converted to the water carriage system, although I have repeatedly reported the insanitary condition of the outhouses to the Education Authority.

Housing.

I General Housing Conditions in the Area.

75 houses are required.

A large number of the houses are not fit to live in as they are dark and ill-ventilated.

During the past 5 years 8 houses have been erected by the Council and 20 by private enterprise. 25 houses are in course of construction by the Council.

These, I understand, will soon be completed, and should to some extent relieve the congestion.

The Council has purchased a suitable site and proposes to erect a considerable number of working class dwellings.

I hope these will soon materialize as they are urgently required.

The number of houses built in New Mills during 1924, the last year for which statistics are available, compares unfavourably with the numbers built in other Urban Districts of Derbyshire. A large number of these houses have been built by private enterprise.

II Overcrowding is very prevalent.

III Fitness of Houses.

(1) (a) The general standard of housing in the area is fair.

(b) The chief defect is back-to-back houses.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses :—Old houses to be dealt with as new ones go up.

IV New bye-laws are before the Ministry of Health for sanction.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total 4.

- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, (1) by the Local Authority 0; (2) by other bodies or persons 4.

1 Unfit dwelling-houses.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 30.

Voluntary repairs, 4.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

This is supervised by the County Council, acting through the Veterinary Surgeons in the District.

(b) Meat.

This is supervised by your Meat Inspector, who is notified and inspects at the time of slaughter. Condemned meat is destroyed. Arrangements are pending for meat marking. All stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles are required to be kept in accordance with the Public Health (meat) Regulations, 1924.

In December 1925 there were 6 registered slaughter houses.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases generally.

During the 5 years under review Scarlet Fever and Encephalitis Lethargica have been more prevalent. During 1925, however, (the last year of the 5), there has been a big drop in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and of Diphtheria.

Full use is made of the Bacteriological Laboratory at Derby for the detection of cases of Diphtheria, etc., and to discover 'contacts.'

Isolation and disinfection are promptly carried out.

The mortality from Influenza per 1,000 persons living during the five years was 1921, .35; 1922, .68; 1923, .1; 1924, .44; 1925, .57. The Local Poor Law Institution is available for cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons, when required.

Infected premises are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector and infected articles are steam disinfected at the Isolation Hospital. Measles was prevalent and severe in 1924.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925.

Disease	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Erysipelas	3		
Pneumonia	26		7
Encephalitis Lethargica	4		4
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1		1
Scarlet Fever	11	10	
Diphtheria	8	3	1
Enteric Fever	5	5	
Acute Polio-myelitis	1		1

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1			2		1		1	
5			1	1				
10								
15	2	1						
20		1						
25		1				2	1	
35		1						
45	1				2			
55				1				
65 and upwards							1	
Total ..	3	4	3	2	3	2	3	

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There is nothing special to note under this section. Four cases of Puerperal Fever and three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum have been notified during the 5 years. There were no cases during 1925.

Your obedient servant,

G. B. PEMBERTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925,

FOR THE

Urban District of New Mills,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in
* connection with

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ..	6		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	12		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	6		
Totals	24		

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedi'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	2	1		
Unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Total	3	2		

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

New Mills Sanitary District, 1925.

Name of Inspector - - - - W. C. SHEARD

Area of District	...	...	...	5,204 acres
Estimated number of Houses	...	...	...	2,092
New Houses erected, 1925	...	...	...	4

Housing and Town Planning—

Number of Houses Inspected under Section 17	...	30
Number Repaired Voluntarily	...	4
Has a Scheme been prepared?	...	Yes.
Number of Houses proposed in Scheme	...	25
Is the Scheme in progress?	...	Yes.
Number of Houses yet to be completed or erected	...	25

	Number of Informal Notices Served by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Legal Notices Served by Local Authority.	Number of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice,
Drainage—			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe			20
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets and Drains	3	1	10
Drains Obstructed	3		25
Closets and Ashpits—			
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s		12	30
Defective Water Closets		2	12
Provision of Additional W.C.'s	1	1	2
Provision of Portable Ashbins	1		
Other Defects—			
Roofs, Eaves Spouts and Down- Spouts	2		4
Water Supply	1		1
Offensive Accumulations	1	1	1
Pigsties	2		2
Totals	14	17	107

	Number on Register.	Inspections made
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	55	20
Bakehouses	12	36
Slaughterhouses	7	
Offensive Trades	2	6
Common Lodging-houses	1	12
Totals	77	74

Infected Rooms Disinfected. Number 46
Samples submitted for examination Water 14

Method, Formalin Lamps

W. C. SHEARD

19th January, 1926.

